

Motivation

Practical Ideas for Helping your Gifted Child..
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What do we know?

- ▶ Innate Ability
- ▶ Unmotivation is demonstrated by discrepancy
- ▶ Inconsistencies
- ▶ What we think it looks like

Turn to your partner...

- ▶ If you had to point to it,

What would lack of motivation look like?



Reasons for Lack of Motivation

- › Physical
- › Emotional
- › Educational

Educational Setting

- Asynchronous Development
 - Uneven intellectual, physical, and emotional development



Educationally Mismatched

- › Poor study habits
- › Has not learned organizational strategies
- › Has not learned resilience/persistence
- › Does not see relevance/importance



Practical Guidelines

- ▶ Promote achievement
- ▶ Avoid Power struggles
- ▶ Develop Positive Relationships
- ▶ Provide stimulation, interest, and challenge
- ▶ Establish appropriate goals and sub goals

Promote achievement

- ▶ Catch them doing something right
- ▶ Use successive successes
- ▶ Success must be frequent enough to maintain new behavior
- ▶ Recognize accomplishments; encourage attempts
- ▶ Anticipatory Praise

Avoid Power Struggles

- ▶ Share the Control
- ▶ Transfer Motivation – extrinsic to intrinsic
- ▶ Help the child to learn to reward himself/herself
- ▶ Personal relationships are the most important motivators

Develop Positive Relationships

- ▶ Encourage rather than criticize
- ▶ Avoid sarcasm and ridicule
- ▶ Avoid referential speaking

Provide stimulation, interest, and challenge

- ▶ The Four C's
 - Challenge
 - Control
 - Commitment
 - Compassion

Establish appropriate goals and sub goals

- ▶ Socratic teaching method
- ▶ Use fantasized anticipation ("What if...?Then what) would happen?")
- ▶ Explore the worst possible outcome; best possible outcome, most likely outcome
- ▶ Help set short, intermediate goals term goals
 - Write them down
 - Adopt a specific action
 - Take an action
 - Reward themselves for the

Recommended Readings

- *Bright, Talented, and Black: A Guide for Families of African American Gifted Learners.* (Davis, 2010).
- *Cradles of Eminence: Childhoods of More Than 700 Famous Men and Women* (Goertzel, Goertzel, Goertzel, and Hansen, 2003).
- *How to Parent So Children Will Learn.* (Rimm, 2008).
- *A Love for Learning: Motivation and the Gifted Child.* (2007). Whitney and Hirsch.
- *Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults* (Webb, Amend, Webb, Goerss, Beljan, & Olenchak, 2005).
- *The Optimistic Child* (Seligman, Reivich, Jaycox, & Gillham, 1995).

Recommended Readings

- *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children* (Webb, Gore, Amend, DeVries, 2007).
- *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Teens: Living with Intense and Creative Adolescents.* (Rivero, 2010).
- *The Resilience Factor* (Reivich & Shatté, 2002).
- *The Smart Teens' Guide to Living with Intensity: How to Get More Out of Life and Learning.* (Rivero, 2010).
- *Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades (and What You Can Do about It.* (Rimm, 2008).
